Welcome back! Hope everyone had a wonderful summer!

There are two LWVRV events in September. See p.1 and p. 5

BETWEEN THE COVERS....

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

BALLOT MEASURE 97

Corporate tax to support Education & State services

Thursday, September 8th, 11:45am at the Medford Library, large community room

Welcome back from your summer break. Your board has been busy planning programs to help educate ourselves and the public. I know many of us have been overloaded with national election news for the last year.

One of our main League goals is to inform ourselves and the public about candidates and ballot measures so that we can be informed voters. This fall your League has the opportunity to partner with the Mail Tribune to present two programs. The first one is on Ballot Measure 97, plus we are in the planning stages for a candidates’ forum in October.

As most of you know the Medford Library is closed on Thursdays. The front door, located on Central Ave. will be open. We plan to have a League person at the back entrance from 11:30 am until noon. This back door is locked when the library is closed. We encourage car pooling and recommend you get there early for a good seat.

If you are interested in helping out with Voter Service, please feel free to contact me. As all League members know ELECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT.

The League does not support or oppose any candidate and does not discuss League positions on ballot measures at any public forum.

~ Normary Barrett Voter Service Chair
FROM the PRESIDENT’S PEN

Welcome back! I hope everyone’s summer was as eventful and as interesting as mine - Joint Council with Oregon and Washington States’ League Women Voters, an LWVUS Convention in Washington D.C., a Board Retreat, and just a few meetings, all in the name of League. My trip to Washington D.C. was a major highlight because I took the train, roundtrip.

I think everyone should travel across country on the train at least once, even one-way. It is awe-inspiring! Our country is so vast and one can see beauty everywhere. Flying gives you one perspective, driving another, but the train leaves you free to just take in the vastness, the beauty, the diversity, and the incredible sky. And the people, with so many interesting stories! To me, the train trip and the Convention seemed of one piece; it was as if I had a bigger stake in the proceedings than I might have had had I flown.

At the LWVUS Convention, delegates passed two very important changes to the bylaws:

- In the membership section, the word “citizens” was replaced with the word “persons.”
- The minimum age for membership was changed from “18 years of age” to “16 years of age.”

We were reminded, more than once, that this year’s unique election may be difficult for Leagues, but
it is vital we remind ourselves and others:

1. We do NOT support or oppose political parties or candidates.

2. We ARE partisan when it comes to our Positions.

3. That there are other issues and candidates on the ballot, besides the presidential race.

A good Council, a good Convention a great trip! My summer!

LWVRV AUGUST 2, 2016 RETREAT SUMMARY

A discussion regarding the forums and/or debates to be held this Fall. A committee to review and revise the LWVRV bylaws was established. The tentative topics and dates for our programs for the 2016-2017 year were outlined.

HELP WANTED

Three interested LWVers wanted to join the membership committee. We are looking for Leaguers desiring to help support and increase our membership. Please contact any Board member for details.

OREGON ELECTION INFORMATION

Oregon General Election - Tuesday, November 8, 2016

The last day to register is October 18th.

You can register on-line if you have a driver's license or ID card.

Ballots will be mailed to voters to be received between October 25th-29th.

The LWVOR Voters Guide will be available on October 7th, including Spanish editions.

For candidate information please go to VOTE411.ORG for a list of candidates.
Constitutional Conventions

What is this vague idea of a ‘constitutional convention’ and what does it mean? Why is it that angry folks in the streets call for it to happen, or some in ivory towers explore the consequences of a runaway convention? Is it something to wish for or something to fear?

A constitutional convention is a way to change our US constitution. The LWV Rogue Valley, like many Leagues around the nation, studied this issue during 2015-2016. The end result? Be careful what you wish for. It is complicated and Leaguers explored all the avenues and approaches they would or would not support.

Changing the constitution is provided for in two ways: either by legislative action (2/3rd vote), or an ‘Article V Convention’ (needing 2/3rd of states). Both ways need to be ‘ratified’ by a 3/4ths of all the states.

While Alexander Hamilton is currently all the rage on Broadway, we see his hand here too. Writing in the Federalist papers, he believed that the convention was a barrier “against the encroachments of the national authority.” Surprisingly or not, it has never been successfully attempted.

Since 1789 (with the amendment processes established), there have been over 11,000 proposals made on the floor of Congress. 33 submitted for states’ ratification. 27 have been ratified and 26 are still US constitutional amendments. Each of these went the legislative route. [League’s evaluative considerations of amendments will follow in a different month’s newsletter.]

What is the big fear about using the Article V convention option? One concern is over who should vote. Another is the question of whether a ‘single issue’ is possible? Scholars do not agree upon the answers. LWV members took this into account during their evaluation as well. Following responses from Leagues nationwide, the position below was adopted by the board January 2016.

Position on Constitutional Conventions under Article V of U.S. Constitution
Adopted January 2016

The League is concerned that there are many unresolved questions about the powers and processes of an Article V Constitutional Convention. The League believes such a convention should be called only if the following conditions are in place:

a) The Constitutional Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret. The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on;

b) Representation at the Constitutional Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote, and delegates should be elected rather than appointed. The delegates represent citizens, should be elected by them, and must be distributed by U.S. population;

c) Voting at the Constitutional Convention must be by delegate, not by state. Delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes;

(continued on p. 5)
d) The Constitutional Convention must be limited to a specific topic. It is important to guard against a “runaway convention” which considers multiple issues or topics that were not initiated by the states;

e) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Constitutional Convention should be called. Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a Convention and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process; and

f) The validity of state calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission must be respected by Congress.

~Barbara Klein, LWVRV Action National, Chairperson

THE PASSING of STATE SENATOR ALAN BATES

A widely admired physician and State legislator died on Friday, August 5, 2016 on a fishing trip with his son. He was 71, a key player in the both the state’s health care reform and in developing human services’ programs and budgets.  

In 1989 he was appointed to the Health Services Commission which helped design the Oregon Health Plan. He was re-appointed by Governor Roberts and again by Governor Kitzhaber.

Dr. Bates was elected as a Democratic State Representative in 2000 and moved to the State Senate in the 2004 election. He served on the Eagle Point School Board. He was also a Vietnam veteran.

State Senator Bates has been lauded by public figures, as well as the general public and political parties. Amongst them is our own League of Women Voters Rogue Valley. We have a long history of inviting him to our election activities and forums. Many of us have fond memories of interviewing him on state politics, health issue and future trends. We remember him as a well-read politician, a keeper of promises and always a gentleman. His shoes will be hard to fill. We send our deepest condolences to Mrs. Bates and her family.

~Shiena Polehn, The League of Women Voters, Rogue Valley.

“How We Really Elect the President”

Date: Saturday, Sept. 17th
Time: 12:00noon – 1:30pm
Location: Rogue River Library 412 Main Street, Rogue River
Topic: Non-partisan—and surprising—program

Celebrate Constitution Day with the LWV Voters Rogue Valley
Our new president, Jackie Clary, lives in Grants Pass, thereby extending our membership as our name suggests. At present, she is managing as president on her own, but a co-president might be welcome.

Jackie was born in Los Angeles, but the family moved to Ashland in the 1940’s to find employment for her father and to be near grandparents. Ashland provided an idyllic childhood, living next door to the (then) College campus where her father was groundskeeper, faculty and students were friends and summers were spent exploring Lithia Park. Ashland was sorely missed when her family had to move, but the memories never went away and are the reason she retired to Southern Oregon.

Jackie was lucky enough to be a stay-at-home mom and began her volunteer career in 1967 as a member of the LWV Sacramento when her first son was 18 months old. The unit offered child care and after her first meeting, she was hooked. She still remembers the intellectual “rush” from that first meeting.

While her sons were in school, Jackie got involved with school district committees, LWV and served two terms as an appointed member of a Sacramento County Planning Advisory Council. During these years, she also worked as a substitute for the Sacramento Public Library, working in all of the 27 branches. It was in one of these branches that Jackie finally found her reason to finish college – adult literacy. Up to that time, she had thought anyone with a high school diploma could read. By the end of the first day on that unique assignment, she knew better. From 1984 to 2007, Jackie got a BS degree from UC Davis and worked in four different California library jurisdictions, coordinating adult literacy services.

Over the years, Jackie had become an inactive member of the LWV. She saw her move to Crescent City in 1990 and an opportunity to become active and was shocked to find there was no LWV in Del Norte County. For the next seven years, she and others tried to start a League, but it did not happen. She did join another League in Grass Valley, but that League was not a good fit for her. The move to Grants Pass finally gave her an opportunity to get active again. And now, she has found her LWV home, attended three State Councils, a National Convention, helped with a state study, been elected Co-President, all of this unexpected, but certainly giving her her wish for more LWV involvement.

~Shiena Polehn
Laura Leebrick and Denise Barnes were speakers and are on the staff of Rogue Disposal and Recycling (RD&R).

**Solid Waste.** Rogue Disposal & Recycling exceeded standards for environmental regulations. Their drop-off and processing site, Rogue Transfer Station, started in 1999 and processes hundreds of tons of solid waste daily.

**E-Waste.** This includes old electronic device (computers, cell phones, speakers, scanners, printers, etc.) recycling; and shredding services. There have been some cases of companies that were paid to collect such extremely hazardous waste and proceeded to either simply bury it, dump it, or in some cases, make it available to unprotected laborers (including children) in impoverished areas. Rogue Disposal & Recycling subscribes to an organization which tries to prevent such problems.

**Dry Creek Landfill** is managed better than mandatory environmental standards. If the waste grows proportional to expected population, the landfill will last at least 75 years. They manage the methane given off and may some day try to harness it for power.

**Composting.** In addition, Rogue Disposal & Recycling has a process that takes in decomposable material and produces fertile compost.

**Q&A.** These Rogue Disposal staff members answered many great questions from the audience of 35 guests. The Plastics Round-up, which collected many truckloads of plastic in the past has recently become too costly to host. It was affected by the Great Recession, in that markets overseas no longer needed as much plastic. Plus, the declining price of oil has made “virgin” plastic cheaper than recycled plastic. For now, soft plastics (bags, shrink-wrap, etc.) are recyclable at about 10 stores that collect plastic bags in the Rogue Valley. Rogue Disposal takes plastic bottles and tubs (e.g., yogurt containers), but not lids. They also cannot recycle “clam shells” (the clear plastic containers often used for deli foods), as that type of plastic breaks up and the small pieces cannot be efficiently sorted and shipped.

One of the things that makes recycling impossibly expensive or difficult is contamination of the material with non-recyclables. This often results from “wishful recycling” when someone puts non-recyclables in a recycling bin. Multi-family homes (e.g., condo- or apartment complexes) are often sources of this. However, when such sites have an active recycling team through which material is collected, such problems are avoided.

The triangle with a number inside it, on container bottoms, does not mean the packaging is necessarily recyclable. It’s simply a notation of the type of plastic from which the container is made. It often is not recyclable at all. (e.g., Styrofoam isn’t recyclable, nor does it decompose. Ever.)
All police stations have drop boxes where you may take your unwanted pharmaceuticals, which should not go into public waste-water treatment systems.

Glass is problematic because of its greater weight and shipping costs. In addition, most manufacturers are moving away from glass containers to plastic, so demand and therefore, facilities for processing it are reduced.

Our speakers presented a good picture of this industry, that is vital to all communities and which many folks view as something very negative, but these staff members view simply as the material they manage. Thank you to Nancy Swan for the pictures.

~Marylou Schnoes
It is that time of year, you know, elections? Vote411 is alive and well! It is very important this year because:

For the first time this election year, the League and VOTE411 have partnered with Google to provide candidate information directly into Google’s Knowledge Panels. Information in Knowledge Panels is seen by Google’s users who are searching for information about a candidate, so this is a great opportunity for candidates to directly share their core platform and issue stances with Google Users. The collaboration covers statewide races and ballot measures and Congressional races in all 50 states, and mayor, city council and school board in 34 targeted cities across the country (complete list below). **This means that every single voter across the country will be able to come to VOTE411.org, or search Google, to learn about candidates on their ballot.** LWVEF will be sharing basic information about these candidates at the federal, state and local levels and League-collected statements from candidates about the core issues at stake in this election.

**In short: thanks to this partnership, we anticipate approximately twenty million Americans will see and benefit from the League’s unique resources in time for Election Day. What’s more, the League will be publicly recognized for this effort. (Source: LWV)**

LWV Oregon has funded Vote411.org for the entire state.

You can help. After the filing deadline we need 2 folks to gather information for Jackson and Josephine Counties. We will need information on the following elections: Cities, Special District, and Ballot Measures. This can be done from the privacy of your home and I can set you up with a formatted Excel spreadsheet that needs to be filled in. To date, all of the State offices down through County officials are in the system. Please help with this amazing project and make Oregon the best covered State in the US! Call me at 541-772-2372 or email m.sinclair@lwvor.org.

Enjoy the season!

*Mary Sinclair*
*Tech Chair, LWVOR*
*MEMBER, LWVRV*
MEMBERSHIP

The Rogue Valley League wishes to warmly welcome three new members: Florence Slomowitz from Medford, Kristi Mergenthaler also from Talent, and Kathy Uhtoff from Ashland. These new members are in addition to Rick Bennett from Medford. The LWV joined the Open House for OLLI held in Ashland in July and we gave out vote411.org bookmarks and contacted attendees with offers of membership. Thank you to volunteers Olena, Jackie, Lorraine for hosting the table, and Nancy Swan, Barbara Empol, Ione Kohn, Lorraine and Jackie for helping contact the names we obtained.

Members are encouraged to let the membership committee know if you know persons that you would like to have us contact with membership information.

OBSERVER CORPS

Dear Observer Corps Report Readers,

Observer Report from Joyce Chapman on the Jackson County Commissioners.

We continue to look for volunteer Observers. It would be especially nice if someone would like to observe the Medford City Council meetings. Let me know if you are interested. Here is our latest report on the Jackson County Board of Commissioner meetings. June 14, 2016 to July 14, 2016.

Really impressive effort. Thank you, Joyce. Wish we had your clone here in Josephine County.

Jackie Clary, President LWVRV, pres@lwvroguevalley.org.

League Of Women Voters Rogue Valley http://LWVRoguevalley.org

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OBSERVER CORPS REPORT AS OF AUGUST 19, 2016

Dear Observer Corps Report Readers,

We continue to look for volunteer Observers. It would be especially nice if someone would like to observe the Medford City Council and Josephine County Commissioners meetings. Let me know if you are interested. Here is our latest report on the Jackson County Board of Commissioners meetings. Due to my schedule conflicts, two meetings were observed by listening to the recordings of the meetings from the Jackson County website. I urge all readers to go directly to these recordings for additional information.

(continued on p. 11)
07/19/16: Breidenthal and Jordan absent. Harvey Bragg filled in for Danny Jordan. 1. **Red Cross Presentation**  
– Carisa Hettich, Executive Director, Southwest Oregon Chapter – Patty Alvin, a volunteer, also participated in the presentation. Hettich and Alvin gave an educational presentation to familiarize the Commissioners with the activities of the Red Cross. The Red Cross supplies 40% of the national supply of blood. They are the first responders in disasters and the primary disasters are house fires. The Red Cross gives earthquake preparedness seminars to educate about the Cascadian subduction zone, CPR, install smoke detectors for those in need, and other such services. Alvin explained in detail why and how she became a volunteer together with her husband. They now have a “go bag” ready at all times so that they can respond to requests to travel to disasters. They noted that only 5% of the population donates blood on a regular basis and encouraged all to consider donating blood. 2. **Order Authorizing the Chair of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to Execute a Perpetual Waterline Easement with the City of Medford, Oregon, Water Commission, Order No. 114-16** – This item was pulled from the agenda for lack of information. 3. **Order Authorizing a Service Agreement between Jackson County and Cannon Cochran Management Services, Inc. (CCSMI) – Order No. 115-16** – CCSMI is JC’s current workers compensation claims processing company. JC is self-insured for workers compensation and CCSMI handles all of the claims processing. The Commissioners were asked to renew the service agreement with CCSMI for a period of three years with an additional two year renewal. The renewal rates were checked by Brown & Brown and they were found to be competitive on the low end. Dyer and Roberts approved the contract at approximately $55,000 per year. 4. **Discussion on Bureau of Land Management Proposed Rules for Table Rocks Area** – Joel Benton, County Counsel – Benton explained that the BLM is proposing to make permanent usage rules for the Table Rocks that had been adopted in 2014 on a temporary basis. The Nature Conservancy had rules and BLM had rules and essentially BLM combined the two sets of rules in 2014. No study was done or information provided to support the reason/need for the rules. Dyer and Roberts both questioned the need for the rules. Benton reminded them that the Commissioners had raised objections to the rules three years ago, indicating that they want public access on public lands. The deadline to object to the permanent rules is August 2. Roberts and Dyer instructed Benton to write another letter to BLM repeating their objections to the rules and to note that their prior letter objecting to the rules had been ignored.

08/16/16:  (Observed by listening to the recorded meeting posted on JC website). Breidenthal absent. 2. **Discussion of Upcoming Association of Oregon Counties District 4 Meeting** – This item was taken out of order. A staff person, whose name I did not hear/catch, led the discussion. JC is going to host the AOC District 4 meeting on September 30. AOC has no budget for this event so the staff person asked for direction in selecting meeting space and lunch issues. Several locations had been contacted including, Del Rio Winery, Bohemian Club, Porters, Roxianne Winery, Rosarios and Black Horse (?) BBQ.  

(continued on p. 12)
After lengthy discussion, it was decided that the meeting should be held in Room 202 and a budget of $350
was allocated for a luncheon that JC will host. Roberts and Dyer indicated that they are willing to provide
pastries to go with coffee in the morning.

1. Discussion of Process to Replace Senate District 3 Position. –
Jordan advised the Commissioners that the Democratic Party has until August 20 to select three qualified
candidates to replace Senator Alan Bates until January, 2017. If the Democrats do not supply the names of
three qualified candidates, the Commissioners are allowed to pick someone else who meets the qualifications.
The qualifications are: a) must be a resident of District 3, b) must have been in the same party as Senator
Bates for at least 180 days prior to the vacancy and c) must be registered to vote. Jordan asked the
Commissioners if they want to identify potential alternative candidate(s) for the position to be ready in the
event the Democrats do not provide the names of three qualified candidates in a timely fashion. There was a
lengthy discussion of the procedures and the timeframe for the Commissioners to make a decision. The
Democrats are meeting on August 19. The Commissioners asked that this matter be placed on every agenda
moving forward until a decision is made so that they are kept informed of progress.

08/18/16: (Observed by listening to the recorded meeting posted on JC website). All Commissioners
present. 1. Input from County Counsel – Benton reported that he had been contacted by KOBI 5 concerning
ongoing negotiations. (It was difficult to hear, but I think it was related to labor negotiations). Roberts
reported that she had also been contacted and referred KOBI 5 to Benton. 2. Code Enforcement Policy and
Procedure Amendments – Kelly Madding, Director, Development Services. Madding proposed two changes
to the Code Enforcement Policy and Procedure Manual (Manual), one a minor clerical change, and the other a
more extensive change to page 16 of the Manual. (Note: There was a discussion that lasted at least an hour.
Rather than cover what I learned in chronological order, I will summarize what I learned from the discussion.
I urge readers to listen to the recordings if they have an interest in this topic.) In 2006 the BOC adopted the
Manual which included the instruction that staff was not to enforce land use ordinances unless they received a
complaint and staff was further instructed not to cite land use ordinance violators as long as they were in the
process of appealing or making new applications for land use approval of their business. As a result, over
time, violators have learned that if they become “serial applicants” they can continue to operate in violation of
land use ordinances for years (five years in one example) with no action from JC. Madding and Jordan
advised the Commissioners of this abuse of the process and encouraged adoption of a change in the policy so
that after a violator had applied, been denied, appealed to LUBA, LUBA remanded back to the county and
the county made a final decision, staff could then take action to cite the violator even though they might
further appeal or make a new application.

(continued on p. 13)
The proposed change is intended to stop abuse and to address the significant concerns from neighbors of the violators who call the county and ask why the code is not being enforced. Once a violator has been issued a citation, the matter goes before a Hearings Officer who can issue one of three penalties: a) A fine of $200 per day up to a maximum of $10,000; b) a lien against the property for the full price of the property; c) a fine of twice the amount of profit the company. Typically a fine of $200 per day has been the penalty. Ninety-seven (97%) per cent of land use applications are approved by the county, which leaves potentially three (3%) per cent who could become violators. In practice, only a very small portion of the 3% would be subject to this change in policy. Some violators make a great deal of money while in violation of the land use codes and appear to factor in the cost of fines in the cost of doing business. Madding and Jordan explained at length the options that violators have in the land use system to protect their rights. Dyer indicated that he has received complaints from neighbors and understands that they have rights too. All Commissioners expressed reluctance to make rules that would impede business. Jordan reminded the Commissioners that they can make exceptions to the policy or change it as they deem appropriate and it was pointed out that a political situation had come before the BOC in Executive Session that they dealt with. In the final decision, Roberts and Dyer voted to approve the policy changes and Breidenthal voted against. If I understood him correctly, Breidenthal feels all land use laws are oppressive and enforcement is part of a “police state”. Jordan pointed out that the state requires the counties to have land use ordinances and that the ordinances must be enforced. The policy change made will allow staff to do their job in citing violators but they are still prohibited from enforcing the land use ordinances unless a complaint is made. (Emphasis added.) The Commissioners want to be kept informed of how the change in policy is going.

3. **Input from County Administrator** – Jordan went over the items for the Wednesday agenda.

4. **Discussion and Deliberation of Replacement of Senate District 3 Position** – A brief discussion was held again about the process of selecting a replacement for Sen. Alan Bates.

5. **Liaison Committee Reports** – Breidenthal did not have a report. Roberts reported on City Council meetings for Phoenix and Talent and the Traffic Safety Committee. She also attended the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and reported that this is the busiest summer ever and without the new RV Park, revenues are up significantly. Roberts attended the Fair Board meeting and reported that they want a written contract. Jordan pointed out that they have had an agreement for several months but they keep wanting to change the terms. Apparently the Fair Board is now willing to agree with the original deal. Dyer attended an event for the Fry Family Farm Food Processing plant, the Airport Advisory Committee, AllCare and the Housing Authority. The airport had a record July and overall the activity at the airport is up 9.3%. The Housing Authority is breaking ground on New Bridge Place on Ross Lane with will have 64 units and a specified number will be for homeless veterans.


--- Respectfully Submitted, Joyce Chapman
WHAT WE DO:
Educate citizens about local, state and national issues
Inform voters

WHY JOIN US?
Learn more about your community
Help make changes by participating in a study
Hone leadership skills
Discover new interests
Meet other interesting community-minded people

HOW to JOIN US:
Complete and mail the form below and enclose your check.

INVITATION to JOIN

Name:__________________________________________________________
Address:_____________________________________________________
City:_________________ Zip:_____________________
Email Address:_______________________________________________ Phone: _______________________

One Year Single Membership: $65, Spouse Membership: $32.00 ,Full-time Student Membership: $32.00

May we publish the above information in our LWVRV Directory? Y N

Check all areas in which you are interested:

Land Use Planning Forest / Urban Growth / Local Government
Transportation Infant / Toddler / Parents
Children at Risk
Election Issues/Vote Registration / Healthcare Issues
Forums / Mock Elections
National Issues Observer Corps

Send payment and completed form to: League of Women Voters Rogue Valley, PO Box 8555, Medford, OR 97501
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The League of Women Voters Rogue Valley is proud to announce some of the topics to be included in the 2016-2017 program. These include: a discussion of Measure 97, “How We Really Elect the President,” adult literacy, program planning, a review of the League’s three new positions, a charity for Valentine’s Day and judicial evaluation and reform. Further details will follow. We hope you will be able to join us.